

REBOUND

Coach Roy (MARTIN LAWRENCE) once was college basketball's top mastermind. But lately his attentions have been on his next endorsements, not on his next game. What's more, Roy's temper has run amuck, leading to his being banned from college ball until he can "demonstrate compliance" – in other words, not explode every time he walks onto the court.

Roy waits – and waits – for a suitable coaching offer, but he receives only one: a hastily scribbled fax from... members of the Mount Vernon Junior High School "Smelters"* basketball squad. Roy reluctantly accepts the "offer," hoping that a few weeks at the school will prove his good intentions and restore him to his high-living ways as a celebrated college coach.

But when "old school" meets "middle school," Coach Roy doesn't know what hit him. The boys are hapless, possessing little athletic skill and virtually no grasp of the fundamentals of basketball. Roy's first game as the Smelters' coach sees the team losing 0-109. And it looks like things are going only downhill from there.

That is, until Roy decides to teach his young charges some new concepts... like passing, rebounding, dribbling, and scoring. As Roy's coaching magic takes the Smelters to a new place – the winning side of the scoreboard – he finds something long thought lost: his love of the game.

(*smelter: one who is engaged in the smelting industry, melting or fusing ores in order to separate the metallic components.)

Over the years, Martin Lawrence has built a career as one of today's top comedy film stars in blockbusters such as "Bad Boys," "Blue Streak," "Big Momma's House" and "Bad Boys 2." In addition to their comedic elements, these pictures had an edgy action bent, with Martin playing characters who pushed – or went beyond – traditional boundaries.

While Lawrence has done extremely well in this genre, Producer Robert Simonds, a successful filmmaker of comedies such as "Just Married," "Cheaper by the Dozen" and "Big Daddy," thought Lawrence's comedic talents would serve him well in a picture tailored to family audiences. "We went to Martin and said, 'Let's do something you haven't done before in films'," recalls Simonds. "Let's make fun not only of Coach Roy's hipness, but of Martin's personae in some of his previous films."

Lawrence embraced the idea of playing a character whose edge is mocked, then softened by a ragtag team of wannabe ballplayers. In fact, Lawrence said that a friend who had made the big family comedies "Dr. Dolittle," "Dr. Dolittle 2" and "Daddy Day Care" following a string of edgy comedy/action hits, encouraged and inspired Martin to tackle his first family comedy. "Yeah, Eddie Murphy said I should try something new like this – working with kids in a comedy," says Lawrence. "And I'm really glad he did; working with kids was a lot of fun."

While trying something new was all well and good, Martin notes that there were three even more important reasons for taking on REBOUND: 1) Basketball, 2) Basketball, and 3) Basketball. "Working on a film about the

game I love isn't like work," says Lawrence, a lifelong basketball fan who relaxed between camera set-ups with pick-up games on a court outside his trailer. "With REBOUND, I got to practice on-camera as well as off-camera. What could be better?"

Well, how about taking on another character in the same film? Lawrence does just that, portraying a flamboyant clergyman known as Preacher Don, who gives motivational pre-game speeches to the young players. "I thought it would be fun to have an outrageous character like that inspire the kids," says Martin.

With Lawrence committing to his first family friendly big-screen comedy, Producer Robert Simonds and the studio turned their attentions to finding a director. Steve Carr, who had guided Eddie Murphy in "Dr. Dolittle 2" and "Daddy Day Care," was their choice. "Steve's tastes are really in sync with the tastes of movie audiences," says Simonds. "In addition, we knew he would create an environment that would bring out Martin's special brand of humor."

Carr couldn't resist taking the reins of REBOUND. "Having done two family comedies with Eddie, I was ready to try something different," he says. "But when they asked me to direct REBOUND, I suddenly realized that the film and the role would be perfect for Martin. That it would provide the opportunity to for him to explore a different comedic side. And who wouldn't want to be a part of that?"

As Carr and Simonds prepped REBOUND, the screenwriting duo Jon Lucas & Scott Moore continued work to refine the script, a process referred to by the filmmakers as "Martin-izing." (The story is by William Wolff and Ed Decter & John J. Strauss.) The first "Martin-ization" step came when Lucas & Moore met with the actor. "Yeah, we pretty much locked him in a room with us," jokes Lucas. "We already thought the idea of teaming Martin with a bunch of kids was irresistible, but meeting and talking with him took us to another level," adds Moore. "At our meeting, we wrote down everything

he said, to get an idea of his cadence and comedic timing. It was pure gold.”

Lucas & Moore worked to make the Smelters funny and identifiable as individuals. “We wanted each kid to be idiosyncratic, charming and readily identifiable, so audiences would recognize each kid right away,” says Lucas. Adds Moore: “We gave each kid a ‘twist’ to separate him or her from the rest. Young audiences will relate to them, but laugh at each Smelter’s unique quality.”

The Mt. Vernon Junior High School Smelters are: Keith (Oren Williams), the squad’s leader, who has some ability but thinks he’s a one-man team; “One Love” (Eddy Martin), who dreams of a future sponsor deal (never mind that he has yet to score in a game); Goggles (Gus Hoffman), who sports huge, Kareem-style eyewear; the chubby, lovable Fuzzy (Logan McElroy); Ralph (Steven Anthony Lawrence), who stands a towering 4’ 0” and has an unfortunate tendency to “toss his cookies” during each game; “Big Mac” (Tara Correa), a fearsome, bullying...girl (the role was originally written for a boy); and Wes (Steven Christopher Parker), a shy, awkward six-footer whom Coach Roy (ironically) calls “The Sledgehammer.”

“It was great fun – and a little nostalgic – to write the kids,” says writer Scott Moore. “It took us back to our junior high school days, when we were cut from every team!”

“Of course, no one is good at any sport in junior high,” adds Jon Lucas. “That’s where you learn to play the sport!”

The filmmakers auditioned over 1500 youngsters to come up with the Smelters. “We not only cast the roles, we cast the group,” says Executive Producer Heidi Santelli, “because we wanted the kids to work together effortlessly.”

Another key figure in Coach Roy’s brave new world is team captain Keith’s mom, Jeanie Ellis, a single parent whose romance with Coach Roy lends emotion to the story. “Roy’s connection to Jeanie and her son is a key

element of the film,” says Santelli. “It’s about Roy finding a family, and becoming a new man.”

But Roy’s relationship with Jeanie is rocky at the beginning. “Jeanie is against the idea of Roy coaching the boys, especially her son Keith, because she doesn’t appreciate Roy’s ethics or his way of life,” says Wendy Raquel Robinson, who plays Jeanie. “But as he brings the team around, and begins to change, so does her interest in him come around.”

Also playing key roles are Breckin Meyer as Roy’s high-powered agent, Tim Fink; “Saturday Night Live’s” Horatio Sanz as Assistant Coach / Home Economics Teacher Mr. Newirth; and “Will & Grace” star Megan Mullally as Mt. Vernon’s acerbic Principal Walsh.

ABOUT THE CAST

MARTIN LAWRENCE (Roy, Executive Producer) is a popular actor/comedian who has made his mark in film and television with a unique style and clever physical comedy. His latest project is “Big Momma’s House 2,” in which Lawrence returns as FBI agent Malcolm Turner, a master of disguise who again goes deep, deep undercover as the corpulent septuagenarian “Big Momma.”

In 2003, he starred in the hit comedy concert film “RunTelDat,” and in “Bad Boys II,” and from 1992 to 1997 he starred in his own very popular television series, “Martin.”

Lawrence has built an impressive filmography, working alongside some of the most talented people in the industry and starring in numerous box office hits including “Big Momma’s House,” which he also executive produced, and the “House Party” films. His film credits also include “What’s the Worst That Can Happen?” with Danny DeVito, “Blue Streak,” with Luke Wilson, “Life” and “Boomerang,” with Eddie Murphy, “Nothing to Lose,” opposite Tim Robbins, “Bad Boys,” opposite Will Smith, “Spike Lee’s “Do the Right Thing,” “A Thin Line Between Love and Hate,” which he co-wrote,

directed and starred in, and “National Security” with Steve Zahn

Lawrence began his television career on “What’s Happenin’ Now!” and as the host for two seasons of “Russell Simmons: Def Comedy Jam.” In 1997, Lawrence wrapped a successful five-season stint as the star and Executive Producer of the television series “Martin,” for which he garnered an NAACP Image Award.

In 2001, Lawrence was honored for his contributions to the entertainment industry when his hand and footprints were placed in cement in front of Hollywood’s fabled Grauman’s Chinese Theater.

The Maryland native’s release of “You So Crazy,” one of the top three highest grossing concert films of all time, established him as a comedian to watch. He followed that with the Billboard Top 10 concert album, “Talkin’ Sh*t” and the Grammy®-nominated “Funk It.”

WENDY RAQUEL ROBINSON (Jeanie) is a cum laude graduate of Howard University who has found success in television, film, and theatre.

On television, she received three NAACP Image Award Nominations for Best Actress in a Comedy for her work on “The Steve Harvey Show.” She starred in the Fox variety sketch show, “Cedric the Entertainer Presents!” and on NBC’s “Minor Adjustments.” Robinson had recurring roles on “NYPD Blue,” “Yes, Dear,” “Getting Personal,” “The Parkers,” and on the hit animated show, “The Proud Family.”

Her recent film credits include “Squirrel Man” with Bill Cobbs, “Two Can Play That Game” opposite Morris Chestnut, Vivica A. Fox, Monique and Anthony Anderson, “Miss Congeniality” starring Sandra Bullock and Michael Caine, and “With or Without You” opposite Cynda Williams and Guy Torry. Robinson appeared in the comedy “Ringmaster” starring Jerry Springer, “A Thin Line Between Love and Hate” starring Martin Lawrence and Lynn Whitfield, and “The Walking Dead” opposite Eddie Griffin.

On stage, Robinson performed in “The Vagina Monologues,”

“Black Woman’s Blues,” “Agnes of God,” “A Midsummer’s Night Dream,” “The Colored Museum” and “Vanities”; for the latter she received an NAACP Theatre Award for Best Choreographer and Best Actress Nomination.

In 1995, Robinson co-founded the Amazing Grace Conservatory (AGC), a theatrical training institute in South Central Los Angeles. Dedicated to “building self-esteem through self-expression,” AGC is a highly respected training ground for young actors and performers.

Robinson is the Celebrity Spokesperson for the Los Angeles Black Business Expo & Trade Show. She has been honored with the Howard University Distinguished Alumni Award, Disneyland & KJLH Proven Achiever Award, and a Woman of Courage Award.

BRECKIN MEYER (Tim Fink) is one of Hollywood’s most sought-after talents. With starring roles in the Twentieth Century Fox comedy hit “Garfield: The Movie,” the DreamWorks comedy “Roadtrip,” Doug Liman’s ensemble feature “Go,” and Miramax’s provocative drama “54,” Meyer’s resumé is as extensive as it is varied.

Meyer co-starred in “Kate and Leopold” opposite Meg Ryan and Hugh Jackman, the ensemble comedy “Rat Race,” “Can’t Hardly Wait,” “Clueless,” “The Craft,” “Prefontaine” and “Josie and the Pussycats.”

On television, Meyer stars in the ABC-TV comedy “Married to the Kellys,” and he is featured as the voice of Joseph Gribble on TV’s “King of the Hill.”

HORATIO SANZ (Mr. Newirth) is in his sixth season as a repertory player on “Saturday Night Live.” In the groundbreaking series, he has performed in numerous sketches and created characters such as the stoner Gobi on the collegiate webcast “Jarrett’s Room,” Sully and Denise’s friend Frankie, The “Wake Up Wakefield” faculty advisor Mr. Banglian, and Jasper Hahn, the political cartoonist for “Weekend Update.”

Over the years, Sanz, backed by castmates Jimmy Fallon, Chris Kattan and Tracy Morgan, has sung the praises of the holiday season, performing “Christmas is Number One” throughout the year...regardless of the calendar. His impressions include Ozzy Osbourne, Elton John, and Gene Shalit, as well as portraying two-thirds of the “Axis of Evil”: Saddam Hussein and Kim Jong IL.

Sanz co-starred with Cuba Gooding Jr. in the feature film “Boat Trip,” and he also starred in the comedy “Tomcats.” He was featured in the hit movie “Road Trip,” and he appeared on the television series “Ed.”

Prior to his stint on “Saturday Night Live,” Sanz was a writer and performer at the Court Theater and Chicago’s famed Second City, which also produced current SNL cast members Rachel Dratch and Tina Fey, as well as famed SNL alumni John Belushi, Chris Farley and Bill Murray. Sanz is also one of the founding members of The Upright Citizens Brigade.

MEGAN MULLALLY (Principal Walsh) can be seen weekly in her Emmy® and three-time SAG Award™-winning role of Karen Walker on NBC’s “Will & Grace.”

Mullally made her television series debut on “The Ellen Burstyn Show.” Additional television credits include guest starring roles on “Seinfeld,” “Frasier” and “China Beach.” She appeared as Walter Winchell’s wife in Paul Mazursky’s award-winning biopic “Winchell,” and she starred opposite Juliet Stevenson in Lifetime’s “The Pact”.

Mullally made her Broadway debut in the 1994 revival of “Grease” with Rosie O’Donnell. She then received an Outer Critic’s Circle Award nomination for her performance as “Rosemary” in the Broadway revival of “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying” opposite Matthew Broderick.

Her Los Angeles theater credits include “The Berlin Circle” at The Evidence Room Theater, for which she won the 2000 Backstage West

Garland Award for Best Lead Actress in a Play and the *LA Weekly* Award for Best Leading Female Performance. Mullally also appeared in “Mayhem” at The Evidence Room.

She appeared in the feature film “Anywhere But Here” and starred in “Everything Put Together,” directed by “Neverland’s” Marc Forster, an entry in the 2000 Sundance Film Festival’s main competition.

Her concert appearances include the 2003 Kennedy Center Gala with Patty Lupone and Michael Feinstein, and at Los Angeles’ Disney Concert Hall. Mullally’s cover band, Supreme Music Program, has released two CDs, the most recent being “Big as a Berry on Fynsworth Alley.” Supreme Music Program essayed a successful performance art piece, “Sweetheart.”

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

STEVE CARR (Director) was just out of art school when he began his career in the music industry with his own graphic design firm, The Drawing Board Graphic Design Company (DBGD). Over the next decade, DBGD created the most influential and recognizable album art in hip-hop, for Def Jam Records and such artists as Public Enemy, LL Cool J, The Beastie Boys, Mary J. Blige, Puffy and Notorious B.I.G.

After starting Drawing Board Pictures with partner Heidi Santelli, Carr directed music videos for such artists as Moby, Method Man, Public Enemy, Slick Rick, Timberland and Redman. He won MTV’s Music Video Award® for Best Rap Video on Jay-Z’s “Can I Get A.” Carr was nominated for three additional MTV awards for his videos featuring Nelly and Ludacris.

His video direction led to his first feature film assignment, “Next Friday,” starring Ice Cube, which was followed by Fox’s box-office comedy hit “Dr. Dolittle 2,” starring Eddie Murphy. A third comedy hit, “Daddy Day Care,” again starring Murphy, followed.

Carr and Santelli are currently readying a remake of “Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House,” and the comedy “Mama’s Boy.”

JON LUCAS & SCOTT MOORE (Screenplay) sold their first screenplay five years ago, and have since penned and sold several scripts. REBOUND is their first produced screenplay. They have several scripts in development at various studios.

WILLIAM WOLFF (Story) wrote for the television series “Good Versus Evil.”

ED DECTER & JOHN J. STRAUSS (Story) are screenwriting partners who co-wrote the smash hit “There’s Something About Mary.” They also co-wrote “The Santa Clause 2: The Mrs. Clause” and wrote “The Lizzy McGuire Movie.”

They recently penned the screenplay to “The Santa Clause 3,” again starring Tim Allen, directed by Michael Lembeck.

They were the creators and co-executive producers of the CBS-TV series “The Closer.” They first collaborated on a script for director Taylor Hackford, called “Forever Murray.” They continued writing for both movies and television, and count among their credits the TV sitcoms “Boy Meets World” and “Chicago Sons.” They also scripted the 1991 feature film “Options.”

ROBERT SIMONDS (Producer) is one of Hollywood’s most prolific producers of motion picture comedies. He is widely regarded as a creative producer with a reputation for discovering new talent and working closely with his writers in producing successful studio films under the Robert Simonds Company banner.

Simonds' near-30 film credits include the hits "Waterboy," "Big Daddy" and Twentieth Century Fox's "Cheaper by the Dozen" and "Taxi." His upcoming releases include "The Pink Panther" starring Steve Martin, Kevin Kline and Beyoncé; and "Herbie: Fully Loaded" with Lindsay Lohan.

A summa cum laude graduate of Yale University with a philosophy degree, Simonds sits on the Boards of the Metropolitan Water District, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the California Science Center, and the Yale School of Management.

TRACEY TRENCH (Executive Producer) was Executive Producer of the Fox comedy "Chasing Papi." She produced the family comedy "See Spot Run" and Twentieth Century Fox's "Ever After" starring Drew Barrymore and Anjelica Huston. She also produced the Disney holiday feature "I'll Be Home for Christmas" starring Jonathan Taylor Thomas, directed by Arlene Sanford.

As President of Creative Affairs at the Robert Simonds Company, Trench executive produced "Head Over Heels," starring Freddie Prinze Jr., and "Corky Romano," starring Chris Kattan. Trench is Executive Producer on the upcoming Robert Simonds Company comedies "The Pink Panther" and "Herbie: Fully Loaded."

While an executive at Twentieth Century Fox, Trench won the Freedom of Expression Award at the Sundance Film Festival for producing the documentary Fear and Learning at Hoover Elementary. The film subsequently won more than ten major awards, including the prestigious duPont-Columbia Award, and it garnered an Emmy nomination.

A native of Indiana, Trench graduated with honors from Harvard University with a B.A. in cultural anthropology. She also holds an M.B.A. in finance from UCLA. Before joining the entertainment industry, Trench was a baker in Paris and an English teacher in Beijing, China.

HEIDI SANTELLI (Executive Producer) began her career as a production assistant in feature films after graduating from California Institute of the Arts, where she majored in photography and critical studies.

After moving to New York, she met graphic artist Steve Carr. Sharing an interest in film and a love of hip-hop music, Santelli produced the music videos Carr directed for Def Jam Records. Santelli later took a job as video commissioner with Def Jam, supervising the financing and creative production of videos by such directors as Hype Williams and Brett Ratner.

An offer to oversee the music video division of Edward Zwick's film and commercial production company, Bedford Falls, brought Santelli back to Los Angeles. When she took a new job as in-house executive producer with the production company A Band Apart, she convinced Carr to join her there.

Santelli produced two MTV award-winning videos that Carr directed, both for rapper Jay-Z, as well as a Billboard Award-winning video for R&B artist Dave Hollister and an MVPA Award-winner for Moby's hit "Bodyrock." After helping Carr land his first feature directorial job on "Next Friday," Santelli joined Carr as Co-Producer of "Dr. Dolittle 2."

In partnership with Carr, Santelli is developing the comedy "Momma's Boy" and a remake of "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House."

PAUL DEASON (Executive Producer) previously held the dual posts of Co-Producer/Unit Production Manager on "Evolution," "Thirteen Days," "End of Days" and "Small Soldiers." His film work also includes stints as Associate Producer/Unit Production Manager on "Amistad," "Mars Attacks!," "Congo" and "Casper," and as a Unit Production Manager on the hit films "Jurassic Park," "Father of the Bride," "The Flintstones" and "Three Men and a Little Lady." In addition, he was an Assistant Director on the films "The Big Picture," "An Innocent Man" and "Weeds."

Deason attended film school at UCLA, and spent ten years adventuring around the globe as a documentary technician for "National

Geographic” and “Survival Anglia.” Segueing to television, he worked as a Unit Production Manager or First Assistant Director on the series “Beauty and the Beast,” “Hill Street Blues” and “The Twilight Zone,” as well as the longform projects “First and Ten,” “Foreign Exchange,” “Ask Max” and “Me and Mom.”

GLEN MacPHERSON, CSC/ASC (Director of Photography), a BCMPA and Genie Award nominee, has worked on the films “Walking Tall” (2004) “Friday After Next,” “All About the Benjamins,” “Exit Wounds,” “Romeo Must Die,” “Loser,” “Wrongfully Accused” and “Regeneration” (a.k.a. “Behind the Lines”).

MacPherson’s television credits include the telefilms “Max Q,” “Dr. Who,” “Serving in Silence,” and “Bye Bye Birdie,” as well as the pilots “Alaska,” “Empire,” “The Division,” “Matthew,” “Sliders,” “Sirens” and “Toe Tags.”

JAYMES HINKLE (Production Designer) has worked on over 20 feature films, as well as numerous television projects. He designed the recent thriller “Cellular” and the action drama “The Perfect Score.” Previous credits include “Hard Ball,” “Ready to Rumble,” “Varsity Blues,” “Loaded Weapon 1,” “Passenger 57” and “Ricochet.”

Hinkle was Production Designer for the pilot of the television series “The O.C.,” and he designed “The Birds of Prey” series.

CRAIG HERRING (Editor) previously worked with REBOUND director Steve Carr on “Dr. Dolittle 2.” His recent credits are “The Tuxedo,” “Good Boy!” and “Sleepover.”

Herring collaborated five times with Harold Ramis, having worked his way up the editorial ladder from Apprentice Editor to Assistant Editor on

Ramis' "Multiplicity," "Groundhog Day" and "Stuart Saves His Family." He was Editor on Ramis' "Analyze This" and "Bedazzled."

Herring, whose father is three-time Academy Award® nominee Pembroke Herring, began his career as an assistant to director Stanley Kramer. After displaying a talent for editing, Herring helped out in the editing room on the films "Die Hard 2: Die Harder," "Out of Africa" and "Sister Act."

TEDDY CASTELLUCCI (Music) has scored such motion pictures as "Anger Management," "Daddy Day Care" (helmed by REBOUND director Steve Carr), "Mr. Deeds," "Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights," "Big Daddy," "The Animal," "The Guest," "Good Advice," "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo," "Little Nicky" and "The Wedding Singer."

As a studio musician, his long list of recording and performing credits include working with Michael Jackson, Jackson Browne, Boz Scaggs, Smokey Robinson, Olivia Newton-John, Michael Bolton, Natalie Cole, Brian Wilson, Carole King, Linda Ronstadt, Wynton Marsalis, Dizzy Gillespie and Lionel Hampton.

SALVADOR PEREZ (Costume Designer) studied his craft at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles. He gained practical experience while working as a wardrobe manufacturing foreman on his first major feature, "Super Mario Bros."

Perez continued working as a costume manufacturing foreman on "The Flintstones," "Stargate," "Casper," "The Brady Bunch," "Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls" and the Oscar®-winning epic "Titanic." He was Assistant Costume Designer on "Nothing to Lose," "The Phantom," "Barb Wire" and "Operation Dumbo Drop."

Perez graduated to Costume Designer on Twentieth Century Fox's "Soul Food" and "Light It Up," both produced by Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds and Tracey Edmonds.

Perez reunited with filmmaker George Tillman ("Soul Food") on the historical drama "Men of Honor," and also designed the wardrobes for "The Man in the Iron Mask," "Bird of Passage," and the debut season of the Fox television drama "413 Hope Street."

Perez was Costume Designer on the 2001 Twentieth Century Fox hit "Drumline," directed by Charles Stone III, on the Fox comedy "Chasing Papi," directed by Linda Mendoza, on the Fox family film "Catch That Kid," and on the comedy "Mr. 3000," starring Bernie Mac.

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